

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended). ~~Device for~~ A closing device ~~an opening~~, comprising:
a frame (4) ~~defining an opening that delimits a pass-through access opening (10) suitable for receiving and~~ a cover (6) for the frame which is movable relative to the frame between an open and a closed position of opening and closing the opening defined by the frame, the frame including an inner side and an outer side, the frame and which includes including a frame hinge knuckle (18), the frame hinge knuckle (18) having a hinge surface (38) and a pass-through hinge knuckle opening (40) that is located between an outer recess open to the outer side of the frame and an inner recess open to the inner side of the frame, the frame (4) having an outer side and an inner side, said cover including a cover hinge knuckle that cooperates with the frame hinge knuckle and comprises a pivot extending into the outer recess when the cover is in the closed position, characterized in that wherein the device also comprises an inserted plug (52) positioned in a the inner recess (50) ~~of the frame hinge knuckle (18) located on the inner side of the hinge surface (38)~~ and which makes the inner side of the frame hinge knuckle (18) appreciably sealed off from the outside.

Claim 2 (previously presented). Device according to claim 1, characterized in that the plug (52) is made from an elastically deformable material.

Claim 3 (currently amended). Device according to claim 1, characterized in that the plug (52) comprises ~~an exterior side, turned toward the hinge surface (38) and~~ means of evacuating (62) dirt (70) accumulated on the outer side of the plug (52).

Claim 4 (currently amended). Device according to claim 3, characterized in that the means of evacuating dirt comprise at least one elastically deformable element (68) that is movable between a blocking position in which it blocks the inner recess (50) and retains the accumulated dirt on the outer side of the plug (52), and a pass-through position in which it opens the inner recess (50) and allows the dirt to be evacuated from the outer side toward the inner side of the frame through the hinge knuckle opening (40).

Claim 5 (previously presented). Device according to claim 4, characterized in that the frame (4) extends along a frame plane (C-C) and the elastically deformable element comprises at least a movable sealing lip (68) bending around an axis (Y-Y, Z-Z) positioned parallel to the frame plane (C-C).

Claim 6 (previously presented). Device according to claim 1, characterized in that the hinge knuckle opening (40) delimits at least a blocking surface (42, 44) of the cover (6) in an open position.

Claim 7 (canceled).

Claim 8 (previously presented). Device according to claim 4, characterized in that the cover knuckle (20) is suitable for taking the elastically deformable element (68) to its pass-through position when the cover (6) is taken to its open position and when the amount of dirt has exceeded a predetermined threshold (d).

Claim 9 (previously presented). Device according to claim 1, characterized in that the device is a manhole (2).

Claim 10 (currently amended). Device according to claim 2, characterized in that the plug (52) comprises ~~an exterior side, turned toward the hinge surface (38) and~~ means of evacuating (62) dirt (70) accumulated on the outer side of the plug (52).

Claim 11 (previously presented). Device according to claim 2, characterized in that the hinge knuckle opening (40) delimits at least a blocking surface (42, 44) of the cover (6) in an open position.

Claim 12 (previously presented). Device according to claim 3, characterized in that the hinge knuckle opening (40) delimits at least a blocking surface (42, 44) of the cover (6) in an open position.

Claim 13 (previously presented). Device according to claim 4, characterized in that the hinge knuckle opening (40) delimits at least a blocking surface (42, 44) of the cover (6) in an open position.

Claim 14 (previously presented). Device according to claim 5, characterized in that the hinge knuckle opening (40) delimits at least a blocking surface (42, 44) of the cover (6) in an open position.

Claim 15 -17 (canceled).

Claim 18 (previously presented). Device according to claim 2, characterized in that the device is a manhole (2).

Claim 19 (previously presented). Device according to claim 3, characterized in that the device is a manhole (2).

Claim 20 (previously presented). Device according to claim 4, characterized in that the device is a manhole (2).

Claim 21 (previously presented). Device according to claim 5, characterized in that the device is a manhole (2).

Claim 22 - 24 (canceled).

Claim 25 (previously presented). Device according to claim 2, wherein the plug is made of a single piece.

Claim 26 (previously presented). Device according to claim 2, wherein the plug is made of an elastomer.

Claim 27 (currently amended). ~~A device for closing an opening device,~~ comprising:
a frame disposed in an opening and including a hinge receiving portion;
a cover which closes the opening and comprises a hinge portion which is received by the frame at said hinge receiving portion; and
a plug separate from said cover;
wherein ~~a surface of the hinge~~ receiving portion includes an outer recess an inner recess
and an a surface opening communicating an inner side the outer recess and the inner recess; and
wherein of the hinge portion to an outer side of the hinge portion and the hinge portion of
the cover is received in the outer recess of the hinge receiving portion and said plug is disposed

~~on in the inner side of the opening to~~ the inner recess and substantially seals off an inner side of the hinge portion from the outside.

Claim 28 (previously presented). A device according to claim 27, wherein said seal is capable of blocking dirt or gravel.

Claim 29 (previously presented). A device according to ~~claim 27~~ claim 28, wherein when said cover is opened, a portion of said cover contacts said dirt or gravel blocked by said seal to unseal said seal.

Claim 30 (new). A closing device, comprising:

- a frame defining an opening;
- a cover which movable between a closed position of closing the opening and an open position of leaving the opening open; and
- a plug;

wherein the frame comprises a frame knuckle which receives an end of the cover;

wherein the plug is disposed below the end of the cover; and

wherein, as least when the cover is in the closed position, the plug substantially seals off an area below the plug from an area above the plug.

Claim 31 (new). A closing device according to claim 30, wherein the frame knuckle comprises an upper recess and a lower recess and there is an opening between the upper recess and the lower recess;

wherein, at least when the cover is in the closed position, the end of the cover is received in the upper recess; and

wherein the plug is disposed in the lower recess.

Claim 32 (new). A closing device according to claim 31, wherein the plug is an elastomer.